

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 02226 051246Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05
CIAE-00 EB-04 OES-02 PRS-01 L-01 /049 W
-----109654 060359Z /10

R 051215Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1055
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 2226

LIMDIS

FOR TODMAN FROM ARELLANO

KINGSTON PLEASE PASS TO AMB. YOUNG'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, VE, TD
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON CARIBBEAN

REF: STATE 181114 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THIS MORNING'S CONSULTATIONS,
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE CHAMBERS CALLED ME ASIDE
FOR A PRIVATE DISCUSSION. HE MENTIONED THAT YESTERDAY
EVENING AND AGAIN THIS MORNING --WHEN THE TT CABINET MET--HE
HAD SPOKEN WITH PM WILLIAMS ABOUT THE ROLE WHICH TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO MIGHT PLAY IN RATIONALIZING SOME OF THE MORE
PRESSING CARIBBEAN PROBLEMS, E.G. CARICOM'S WEAKNESS,
PROLIFERATION OF "MINI-STATES," THEIR ECONOMIC UNVIABILITY,
AND OTHER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE REGION. THIS FOLLOWED
A CONVERSATION WITH CHAMBERS AT LUNCH YESTERDAY, IN WHICH I
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WAS SOUNDING HIM OUT AS TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S WILLINGNESS
TO CONTINUE THEIR ASSISTANCE IN CARIBBEAN PROBLEM SOLVING.

2. CHAMBERS INFORMED ME THAT PM WILLIAMS HAD LISTENED
QUIETLY AND THOUGHTFULLY TO HIS RAISING OF THE FUTURE OF
TT'S INVOLVEMENT IN CARIBBEAN ASSISTANCE EXERCISES.
CHAMBERS THEN IMPLIED THAT WILLIAMS AND HENCE TT WOULD

SERIOUSLY CONSIDER PLAYING A LEADING ROLE IN WORKING OUT A PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

3. CHAMBERS NOTED A "PRIVATE COMMUNICATION" TO PM WILLIAMS FROM SECRETARY VANCE INQUIRING AS TO WILLIAMS' IDEAS RELATING TO ACTIONS WHICH COULD BE TAKEN IN AMELIORATING CURRENT CARIBBEAN TROUBLES, AND IMPROVING FUTURE STRUCTURAL RELATIONS, WOULD LIKELY ELICIT A POSITIVE RESPONSE WITH CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PM. I TAKE THIS TO MEAN THAT WILLIAMS, OR AT LEAST CHAMBERS, HAS BEEN GIVING THOUGHT TO THESE MATTERS AND WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THE VIEWS.

4. CHAMBERS THEN GENTLY BROACHED THE VENEZUELAN-TRINIDADIAN SITUATION, MENTIONING THAT THERE HAD BEEN HARSH WORDS UTTERED IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, IT WAS CHAMBERS' OPINION THAT "THE OLD MAN" COULD BE LOOKING FOR A PATH TO "THAW" RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA.

5. I MENTIONED THAT A CARIBBEAN CONSORTIUM MIGHT BE A VEHICLE TO CONSIDER AS A MEANS OF OPENING POSITIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND VENEZUELA. HE AGREED THAT, INDEED "PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS FIND IT EASIER TO LET THE PAST TAKE CARE OF ITSELF." AT THIS POINT CHAMBERS OBSERVED THAT IT WAS HIS "SUSPICION THAT THE PM FOR SOME TIME HAS BEEN THINKING ABOUT HOW TO MOVE" IN BETTERING THE NOW VIRTUALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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SILENT RELATIONSHIP WITH VENEZUELA. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT A "GOOD SIGN" HAD BEEN THE LACK OF RESPONSE FROM THE VENEZUELAN TO THE EARLIER RATHER STRONG REMARKS OF PM WILLIAMS CONCERNING VENEZUELA'S "NEO-COLONIAL" ASPIRATIONS RE THE CARIBBEAN.

6. WILL COMMENT FURTHER PARTICULARLY CONCERNING "MESSAGE FROM VANCE," WHEN I RETURN ON MONDAY.
FOX

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: PORT OF SPAIN
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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